

## **Charter Vessel Permits**

2008-2009

**This document should be kept on board all charter vessels as a legal reference, not to supersede knowledge of the pertinent laws.**

### Definitions.

As used in this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Fishing" means:

- (a) catching, taking, landing, or harvesting saltwater fish;
- (b) attempting to catch, take, land, or harvest saltwater fish; or
- (c) other activity reasonably expected to result in the catching, taking, landing, and harvesting of saltwater fish.

(2) "Saltwater fish" includes all species of finfish, oysters, and clams in South Carolina's salt waters.

**[Section 50-5-1905]**

Individual saltwater recreational fisheries stamp; charter fishing licenses; penalties. **[Section 50-5-1910]**

No vessel may transport saltwater recreational fishermen for a fee without a charter fishing license. No person may charge a fee to the public to fish from a pier without obtaining a saltwater public fishing pier license. **[Section 50-5-1910 (C)]**

The license must be available for inspection at all times. **[Section 50-5-1910 (D)]**

A person who violates subsection (C) is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not less than two hundred dollars nor more than five hundred dollars or imprisoned for not more than thirty days. **[Section 50-5-1910 (F)]**

Charter fishing vessel and public pier logs; penalties. **[Section 50-5-1915]**

Charter fishing vessels shall maintain a log of the number of persons carried each day, number of hours engaged in fishing, number of fish by species caught each day and other information considered necessary by the Department. The logs must be submitted as prescribed or approved by the Department. A person licensed to operate a charter fishing vessel who fails to maintain or submit a log as required is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than five hundred dollars, or imprisoned for not more than thirty days, and a subsequent charter fishing vessel license must not be issued until the requirements of this subsection are met. **[Section 50-5-1915 (A)]**

Saltwater recreational fisheries licenses; saltwater public fishing pier licenses; charter vessel licenses; fees. **[Section 50-5-1920]**

For the privilege of operating a charter fishing vessel in the salt waters of this State the owner or operator must purchase an annual charter fishing vessel license for one hundred fifty dollars for vessels licensed to carry six or fewer passengers, two hundred fifty dollars for vessels licensed to

carry seven to forty-nine passengers, and three hundred fifty dollars for vessels licensed to carry more than forty-nine passengers. Provided, the annual fee for the issuance of the license is forty dollars if the vessel carries only the passengers who hire the vessel. **[Section 50-5-1920 (F)]**

## **Charter Vessel Logs**

### **South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Reporting Requirements:**

- 1) All permitted charter vessels must submit daily trip reports to the Marine Resources Division's Fisheries Statistics Program, P.O. Box 12559, Charleston, SC 29422-2559 on a MONTHLY basis for all trips taken during the month.**
- 2) Reports must be received by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the following month regardless of whether or not fish were caught. If no trips were made during the month, a single report must be submitted with "No Business For The Month Of (month)" printed on the middle of a report form.**
- 3) Reports should be complete and accurate. This data is utilized by the Department for compiling federally mandated fishery compliance reports and serves as a data source used in the management of the State's marine resources.**
- 4) Charterboat logbooks (with more detailed instructions) can be picked up from Room 215 in the Administrative Building at the Marine Resources Center on James Island, or can be mailed to permit holders.**

**[Section 50-5-1915]**